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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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MICHAEL P. CANTARA
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2005
9:30 AM
MAINE EMS CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Board Members: Steve Leach, (chair), Wayne Werts (chair-elect), John Alexander, Bob Ashby, Oden Cassidy, Peter DiPientranantonio, Richard Doughty, Bill Dunwoody, Kevin Kendall, Penny Kneeland, Paul Knowlton, Jim McKenney, Carol Pillsbury, Steve Diaz (ex-officio)

Regional Coordinators: Steve Corbin Joanne LeBrun, Rick Petrie

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Dawn Kinney, Drexell White, and Laura Yustak Smith, AAG

Guest: Brian Mullis (Mayo Hospital EMS), Rob Tarbox (PACE), Paul Marcolini (Tri County EMS)

- 1) Introductions – Jim McKenney introduced Steve Corbin as the new regional coordinator for Aroostook EMS.
- 2) Approval of August 3, 2005, meeting minutes

MOTION: To approved the minutes of the June 22, 2005, meeting as distributed. (Kneeland; seconded by Kendall) Unanimous.

- 3) Old Business
 - a) EMS Assessment Report.

Brian Mullis, representing the Human Resources/PIER work group, reported that they have concluded their Phase 1 work and prioritized the recommendations contained in the EMSSTAR report.

Jay reported that the Transportation & Facilities work group unanimously passed a motion recommending that “Licensed EMS providers are authorized to request air medical transport.” Dr. Diaz noted that the MDPB has this on their agenda for the upcoming meeting with a request that LifeFlight of Maine provide data regarding the over-triage rate (as determined by patients discharged from an ED within 12 hours of arrival). Consensus of the Board was to allow the MDPB to have its discussion on this topic and report back at the October Board meeting.

b) Practical Assessment Exam Alternatives

Drexell summarized the activity that has taken place with the Education and Exam Committees to develop an alternative skills assessment tool since the previous Board meeting.

The Initial Practical Examination process would require that course sponsors provide a syllabus, class roster, and check in the amount of \$250 to Maine EMS following the drop date for each course. It would then be MEMS's responsibility to coordinate having a state evaluator present for the course practical test. That evaluator would be reimbursed by MEMS at a standard rate for time, mileage, and other expenses (meals, lodging, etc.).

Drexell also explained that the IPE process would not use Critical Skills as are now in place, but instead use a point system modeled after the NREMT skill sheets. The Committee recommends a pass rate of 80%.

MOTION: To approve the Initial Practical Examination process as presented, with a pass rate of 80%, and a report back to the Board in 6 months. (Werts; seconded by Cassidy). Unanimous with one abstention (Dunwoody).

c) Emergency Medical Dispatch/E-911

MEMS is continuing to work with the Emergency Services Communications Bureau on the logistics of requiring EMD certification for all PSAP call-takers before January 1, 2007. It is anticipated that a representative of ESCB will begin attending Board meetings. Effective September 19, 2005, a new position within MEMS has been authorized to coordinate this effort. This position is being funded by ESCB.

4) New Business

a) Operations Team Action Items – none at this time.

b) Investigation Committee Action Items

MOTION: To approve the Board's finding regarding Warren Ambulance Service. (Pillsbury; second by DiPietrantonio). Unanimous with one abstention (Dunwoody).

MOTION: The decision regarding the Warren Ambulance Service was the unanimous finding of Board members present for that meeting. (Kneeland; second by Kendall). Unanimous with one abstention (Dunwoody).

c) Education Committee Action Items – none at this time

d) Other - none at this time

5) Staff Reports

i) MEMS

- (1) Interviews have been conducted for the EMS Data & Preparedness Coordinator. References and background checks are now being conducted.
- (2) RAED Grant – MEMS will soon be purchasing AEDs for the 4th, and perhaps final, year of the federal RAED Grant. Deployment locations will be discussed at the October Operations Team meeting.
- (3) MEMS has been approached by the Bureau of Health to ascertain if there is an interest among EMS providers in receiving free flu vaccine this year. This may be a pilot trial to develop a mechanism for distributing vaccine in the event there was a pandemic outbreak. Jay is working with Dr. Dora Mills and the regional coordinators on the details. Dr. Diaz mentioned that due to Hurricane Katrina's effect on the Gulf States, if it appears that flu vaccines will be in limited supply, priority will likely be given to those southern states.
- (4) MEMS is working with Maine Cardiovascular Health on the development of a HeartSafe Communities project. This project enables communities and/or service areas to obtain points (called "heart beats") for community CPR training, AED installations, ALS backup, etc. The goal is to make this award within reach of any community in Maine, regardless of size.

ii) MDPB

Dr. Diaz reported that the MDPB did not conduct regular meetings during the summer in order to allow members to participate in the Medical Control and Trauma Systems work group.

Regular MDPB meetings will commence in September.

Active/upcoming topics include:

- Air System Activation (previously discussed)
- Paramedic Interfacility Transport Module
- Rapid Sequence Intubation
- Medical Control Training
- Update on CPAP study
- Proposal from the Regional Resource Centers to provide Mark 1 kits for EMS services.

6) Other

EMS Response to Hurricane Katrina – Jay reported that there were initially several calls from EMS providers interested in going to the Gulf States to assist with the rescue efforts following the hurricane. MEMS is directing all such calls to Maine Emergency Management Agency, who are in constant contact with FEMA through the Emergency Medical Assistance Compact (EMAC) system. Those insisting on doing something on their own are encouraged to make a donation to one of the relief organizations who already have a presence in the Gulf.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM; next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2005 @ 9:30 AM.